



SAM RANGE—TECH FILE PHOTO

Students sit atop a plinth in the corner of Lobby 7 as pedestrians walk past on Nov. 5, 2009. The Class of 1954 is sponsoring a student contest for designs to sit atop the pedestals, which were left unfinished after Lobby 7 was designed in 1939.

Lobby 7 design competition narrows to twelve finalists

Grads, undergrads envision empty plinths' future

By Aparna Sud
STAFF REPORTER

The empty plinths in Lobby 7 are familiar to anyone who passes through the entrance to MIT's campus on a regular basis. Originally designed to hold statues depicting the ancient Greek intellectuals Aristotle, Ictinus, Archimedes, and Callicrates, they are commonly adorned today with a rather unique piece of artwork: MIT students. The Lobby 7 Design Competition, which kicked off last May, aims to fill the empty spaces with more appropriate adornment. After reviewing the 60 student-submitted entries in December, the competition announced its twelve finalists two weeks ago. The competition has separate divisions for undergraduate and graduate student entries, and the finalists were evenly split between these divisions.

According to the competition's website, the evaluating blind jury consists of four MIT faculty members, three local professional architects who are familiar with MIT's campus, and a class of 1954 engineering alumnus. According to Mark M. Jarzombek PhD '86, associate dean of the School of Architecture and Planning and director of the competition, there was a vast array of both individual and group entries. Some designs consisted of traditional statues, while others were interactive or included electrical machinery, and a few even had humorous appeal. All of the entries said something unique about MIT.

The twelve finalist teams and individuals have been given \$400 to further develop their designs for the final round submissions. In early March, the teams will present a project design, model, video, or any combination of

those three media to the panel of judges, which will choose three undergraduate and three graduate winners. First, second, and third prizes at each level will be awarded \$10,000, \$2,500, and \$1,000, respectively.

According to Jennifer Y. Chuong G, a finalist, the competition is very generous and encourages students to feel free to push their limits. Although she acknowledges the limitations of constructing the winning design — it is possible that none of the student designs will ultimately be built — Chuong said that "Lobby 7 is a great space and it would be great to see something there, even temporarily, that is student-initiated."

The concept of the Lobby 7 Design Competition surfaced two years ago, according to Jarzombek,

Lobby 7, Page 12

IN SHORT
Classes are on a Monday schedule today! Classes resume normal schedule tomorrow.

Election packets for UA President, Vice President, and all Class Council positions are due this Saturday, Feb. 26, at 12 noon to the UA office, W20-401.

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and Boston University professor Isabel Wilkerson discusses her first

book, *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*, today at 7 p.m. in Kirsch Auditorium (32-123).

Applications to move to Maseeh Hall for Fall 2011 are due by 9 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 28. The application is binding, and is available at http://housing.mit.edu/maseeh_hall_application.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

MIT student assaulted in Boston

According to an MIT Police crime alert bulletin, two female MIT students were approached in Boston by an unknown male early Monday morning. The first student was assaulted at around 3:05 a.m. while walking down Beacon Street in Boston

towards Massachusetts Avenue. The suspect pulled the hood of her jacket after she refused conversation. He attempted to pull her closer by grabbing her stomach, but she escaped to a taxi. The second victim was approached around 3:30 a.m. while sitting with two male companions. The suspect walked up to the group and asked her to come with him. Her companions told the man to leave.

The suspect is described as

a tall, black male, 20–23 years old, with a light-medium complexion, large eyes, a thin build and face, and short hair. The victims said he was wearing a red baseball hat, dark clothing, and a black windbreaker. He was also carrying a backpack.

To contact the MIT Police with tips regarding the incident, call 617-258-8477 (8-TIPS). In emergencies, campus police can be reached at 617-253-1212.

—Pearle Lipinski

THE ILLUSION OF INEQUALITY

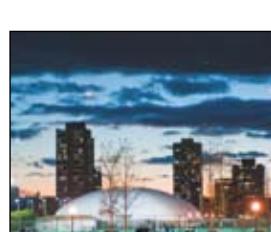
Statistics can be deceiving. Is America's growing income disparity really something to worry about? **OPINION, p. 5**

INFINITE CONGESTION

Tips for navigating MIT's crowded corridors. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 9**

(DIGITAL) FREEDOM IS AT HAND

Arab unrest highlights a new technological dynamic. **OPINION, p. 4**



INSTITUTE DOUBLE TAKE

The Tech features a weekly photo capturing the rare and beautiful at MIT. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 9**

SOLVING THE SLEEP PROBLEM

Some sleep once a day for a long period of time. Others have discovered a new approach. **FUN, p. 6**

SECTIONS

World & Nation . . . 2
Opinion 4
Fun Pages 6
Campus Life 9
Sports 16

BMW to create sub-brand for battery-powered cars

FRANKFURT, Germany — BMW, the German luxury car builder, said on Monday that it would create a sub-brand known as BMW i to market a line of battery-powered cars starting in 2013, and gave the most complete picture yet of how the vehicles made of carbon fiber and aluminum would look.

Though the introduction of the so-called Megacity vehicle is two years away, the promotional campaign has been under way for at least a year, with BMW executives slowly revealing information about the new line's design and technology.

The information drip continued Monday with an event in Munich, broadcast on the Web, where the company, formally Bayerische Motoren Werke, showed off crucial details of the body design and the slanted "i" logo that will be used to market the cars.

BMW also said that at least two models, not just one, would be introduced in 2013: a four-seat, battery-powered vehicle intended for urban areas and known as the i3; and a hybrid sports car, the i8, that the company promised would be able to reach nearly 100 kilometers an hour, or 60 miles an hour, in five seconds, while burning no more fuel than a subcompact.

—Jack Ewing, *The New York Times*

31 killed in suicide attack on Afghan census

KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide bomber wearing a vest with explosives blew himself up Monday, killing 31 people, as residents lined up for identification cards at a census office in northern Afghanistan, Afghan security officials said.

The attack at the government center in Imam Saib, a remote district of Kunduz province, was the fifth suicide bombing with major casualties in Afghanistan in four weeks. All the victims were civilians, said Abdul Rahman Saidkhaili, the provincial police chief. He said the target had been the district governor, whose office is next to the census department's.

The Taliban claimed responsibility, saying that a member from Logar province had carried out the attack and that its goal was to halt a new program backed by NATO to enroll large numbers of people into the Afghan Local Police, an auxiliary organization designed to safeguard neighborhoods.

"He entered the recruitment and enrollment center of the Afghan government and foreigner-supported program called the Local Police and carried out a martyrdom attack," said Zabiullah Mujahid, the Taliban spokesman for northern and eastern Afghanistan.

—Alissa J. Rubin, *The New York Times*

BP to pay \$7.2 billion for stake in oil fields in India

MUMBAI, India — British oil giant BP said Monday that it would pay \$7.2 billion to buy into India's fast-growing oil and gas industry. It is BP's second big deal in two months, as it seeks to rebuild after last year's Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

BP will take a 30 percent stake in 23 oil and gas fields operated by Reliance Industries, India's largest private company. Reliance would receive an additional \$1.8 billion if the companies found more oil and gas than expected.

The companies also said they would create a 50-50 joint venture to buy, transport and market natural gas, which is increasingly in demand in India as the country's economy grows at nearly 9 percent a year.

Last month, BP signed an agreement with Russia's Rosneft to drill in the Arctic. That deal, worth \$7.8 billion, was the first big investment by BP after its oil spill last year, which resulted in an estimated \$40 billion in damage claims.

—Vikas Bajaj and Julia Werdiger, *The New York Times*

WEATHER

Winter-like conditions return to New England

By Roman Kowch
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The cold temperatures of the winter season are back in full swing after an unusually warm period late last week. Last Friday evening, the warm weather came to an abrupt end as some surprising thunderstorms squalls raced through the area.

In their wake, strong winds brought in much cooler air from the north and uncomfortable wind chill readings. Thankfully,

the winds will be lighter this week. An area of low pressure, which brought heavy snow to the Midwest, will slip just south of us today as high pressure begins to dominate the weather pattern. Under clear skies, sunny days and cold nights are in store through Thursday, with the lowest readings around 15°F (-9°C). The end of the week, however, looks quite interesting. Another storm should be headed our way, with a possible mix of rain and snow by Friday.

Extended Forecast

Today: Sunny. High 30°F (-1°C). N wind at 15-20 mph.
Tonight: Clear. Low 15°F (-9°C). NW wind at 10-15 mph.
Tomorrow: Sunny. High 38°F (3°C). NW wind at 15-20 mph.
Thursday: Mostly sunny. High near 40°F (4°C). Low near 18°F (-8°C).
Friday: Rain/snow mix possible. High near 38°F (3°C). Low near 30°F (-1°C).

Gadhafi's forces strike with fury as Libyan unrest grows

By David D. Kirkpatrick and Mona El-Naggar
THE NEW YORK TIMES

CAIRO — The faltering government of the Libyan strongman Colonel Moammar Gadhafi struck back at mounting protests against his 40-year rule, as security forces and militiamen backed by helicopters and warplanes besieged parts of the capital Monday, according to witnesses and news reports from Tripoli.

By Monday night, witnesses said, the streets of the capital, Tripoli, were thick with special forces loyal to Gadhafi as well as mercenaries. They shot freely as planes dropped what witnesses described as "small bombs" and helicopters fired on protesters.

Hundreds of Gadhafi supporters took over Green Square after truckloads of militiamen arrived and opened fire on protesters, scattering them from the square. Residents said they now feared even to emerge from their houses.

"It was an obscene amount of gunfire," said the witness. "They were strafing these people. People were running in every direction."

The police stood by and watched, the witness said, as the militiamen, still shooting, chased after the protesters. As the conflict spread to Tripoli, Gadhafi's long hold on power appeared to be weakening, too, as key advisers and diplomats broke with his government and Libya's second-largest city remained under control of the protesters.

Gadhafi's whereabouts were not known. But the heavy presence of security forces in the capital late Monday was a clear signal of his determination to hold on. Two residents said planes had been landing for 10 days ferrying mercenaries from African countries into an airbase in Tripoli. They had done much of the shooting, which began Sunday night, they said. Some forces were using particularly lethal, hollow-point bullets, they said.

"The shooting is not designed to disperse the protesters," said one resident, who wanted to be identified only as Waleed, fearing for his security. "It is meant to kill them." "This is not Ben Ali or Mubarak," he added, referring to the deposed leaders of Tunisia and Egypt — Zine El

Abidine Ben Ali and Hosni Mubarak. "This man has no sense of humanity."

Two Libyan fighter pilots defected to Malta after they had been ordered to bomb protesters, said Maltese government officials quoted by Reuters.

Libyans from other cities — Benghazi and Misrata — were reported to be heading to Tripoli to join the battle against the government forces, said Mansour O. El-Kikhia, a professor of Middle East studies at the University of Texas at Austin, who had talked to people inside the country.

"There are dead on the streets, you cannot even pick them up," he said by e-mail. "The army is just shooting at everybody. That has not deterred the people from continuing."

In a sign of growing cracks within the government, several senior officials — including the justice minister and members of the Libyan mission to the United Nations — broke with Gadhafi.

The United States condemned the Gadhafi government's lethal use of force and ordered all non-essential personnel and family members at its embassy to leave the country.

In Wisconsin, back to work in the Senate — minus a party

By A.G. Sulzberger
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MADISON, Wis. — With the Capitol braced for another week of protests and deadlock over a budget bill that would severely restrict public employees' unions here, the top Republican in the State Senate announced that the body would resume consideration of other matters.

The move seemed intended to increase the discomfort of the Democratic state senators who have fled the state as a way of preventing a vote on the union legislation. Starting Tuesday, those senators, who are in Illinois, will have to watch from afar as Republicans continue the work of governing without them, taking up matters from the mundane to the controversial.

"By not being here, they're basically deciding to let things go through the body unchecked," said Scott Fitzgerald, the Senate ma-

jority leader. "They're not here to represent their constituents. We're here to work."

The issues scheduled for consideration in the Senate on Tuesday were routine: an appointment by the governor, tax breaks for dairy farmers and a resolution commanding the Green Bay Packers for their Super Bowl victory. But Fitzgerald said more significant legislation could also be in play, including a bill requiring voter identification that Democrats strongly oppose.

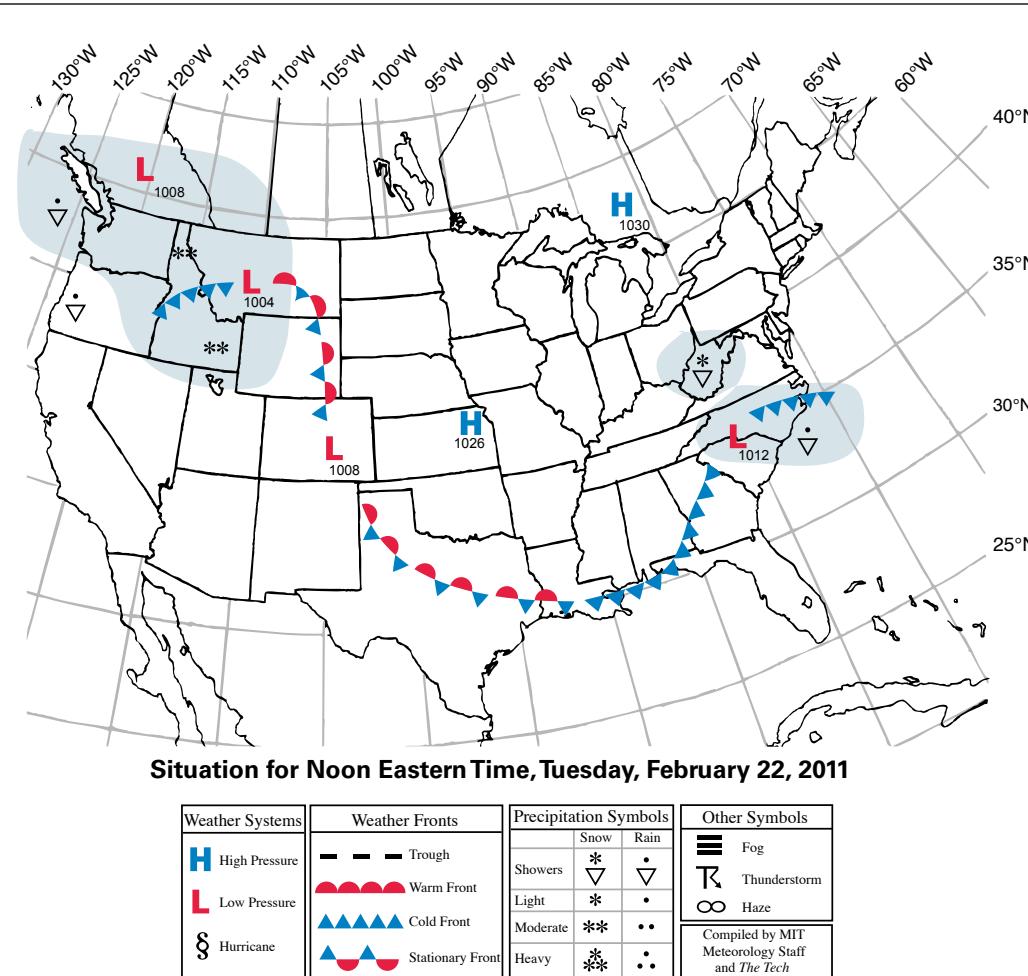
Governor Scott Walker, in comments delivered against the din of the raucous protesters gathered outside his office, praised the Senate Republicans for the move, which he said he hoped would entice the Democrats home. "It's time for them to come back and participate in democracy," he said.

It was another strange twist in a standoff that has captured the nation's attention but seems no closer

to resolution than when it began. Each party maintained an unwillingness to compromise on the most divisive elements of the bill, with Democrats accusing the Republicans of refusing to negotiate and Republicans accusing Democrats of shirking their duties. Other states, including Ohio, are considering similar legislation, and both sides are hoping to use a victory in Wisconsin to establish momentum in their favor.

Barring an unexpected return by the Democrats, it seemed that the Republicans would have the run of the chamber and be able to introduce, debate and pass legislation without the minority party to stand in opposition.

At issue is a normally obscure Senate rule that requires a quorum of 20 senators to vote on fiscal matters but just 17 to vote on other matters. There are 19 Republicans and 14 Democrats in the Senate.



Zimbabwe arrests 46 for watching uprisings on TV

By Celia W. Dugger
THE NEW YORK TIMES

JOHANNESBURG — Dozens of students, trade unionists and political activists who gathered to watch Al-Jazeera and BBC news reports on the uprisings that brought down autocrats in Tunisia and Egypt have been arrested on suspicion of plotting to oust President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

James Sabau, a spokesman for the police force, which is part of the security services controlled by Mugabe's party, was quoted in Monday's state-controlled newspaper as saying that the 46 people in custody were accused of participating in an illegal political meeting where they watched videos "as a way of motivating them to subvert a constitutionally elected government."

The evidence seized by the police included a video projector, two DVD discs and a laptop.

Lawyers for the men and women in custody said they had not yet been formally charged but had been advised that they might be accused of "attempting to overthrow

the government by unconstitutional means," a crime punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

Mugabe, who turned 87 on Monday, and his party ruled Zimbabwe single-handedly from 1980 until 2009, when regional leaders pressured him into forming a power-sharing government with his longtime political rival, Morgan Tsvangirai, after a discredited 2008 election. Tsvangirai withdrew from a June runoff that year to protest state-sponsored beatings of thousands of his supporters. An estimated 350 people died in the violence.

"The illegal meeting's agenda, Inspector Sabau said, was 'Revolt in Egypt and Tunisia: What lessons can be learnt by Zimbabwe and Africa?'" the state-controlled Herald reported.

Munyaradzi Gwisai, a lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe's law school, was an organizer of the gathering, which took place on Saturday and allowed activists who had no Internet access or cable television to see images from the uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt.

Alec Muchadehama, a human rights lawyer who met Gwisai at the

Harare Central police station, said detainees told him that Gwisai was one of seven people in custody who were beaten with truncheons at the police station. Muchadehama, who often represents arrested journalists and activists, said Gwisai and others at the meeting were not plotting the government's overthrow, but were engaged in "an academic debate about what was happening in Tunisia and Egypt."

As Mugabe's party pushes for elections this year in a drive to reclaim sole power, human rights groups have warned that the police and youth militia aligned with Mugabe's party have intensified harassment, beatings and arrests of Mugabe's political opponents. The revolts in North Africa appear to have made Mugabe's inner circle nervous — and the arrests were a sharp warning to those emboldened by them, they said.

"This is a message that, 'If you attempt anything, we're going to arrest you, assault you, incarcerate you, lay false charges against you, deny you bail, and occupy you with false trials,'" Muchadehama said.

Egypt's new leaders signal commitment to civilian rule

By Sharon Otterman
THE NEW YORK TIMES

CAIRO — The military and civilian leadership controlling Egypt in the wake of a popular revolution took several high-profile steps Monday to reassure Egyptians that it shared their fervor for change and to signal to foreign leaders that the move to full civilian rule would be rapid.

The prime minister of Britain, David Cameron, held talks here with the leaders, becoming the highest-ranking foreign official to visit Egypt since the longtime president, Hosni Mubarak, was ousted after 18 days of widespread protests.

At the same time, the country's top prosecutor, Abdel Meguid Mahmoud, said he would request that the Foreign Ministry ask governments to freeze any assets of Mubarak, his family and a handful of top associates. The Associated Press, citing unnamed security officials, said that Mubarak's local assets were frozen as soon as his

government fell.

Last week, the Swiss government, acting on its own, froze tens of millions of dollars belonging to Mubarak, his family or top associates. The fact that the caretaker Egyptian government had not requested the move prompted opposition members to express fears that it was shielding Mubarak, a former Air Force chief, and his relatives.

As the financial noose tightened around the Mubarak family, Cameron met with the country's de facto leader, Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi, and Ahmed Shafiq, the prime minister who heads the caretaker government.

He declined, however, to speak with members of the Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamic group that was banned by the former government but is playing an active role in the new politics of Egypt. A Brotherhood representative called his decision to exclude the group "astonishing."

In remarks to reporters, Cam-

eron said he wanted to underscore that the Egyptian uprising was "not about extremists on the streets."

William J. Burns, the U.S. under secretary of state for political affairs, also landed in Cairo to meet with government officials and civilian representatives. In remarks delivered at the Arab League, he said the United States would seek to encourage, not dictate, a transition to a fully civilian government.

"Americans deeply respected and admired what Egypt has already achieved, but we know that the road ahead is not going to be easy," Burns said.

While the military remains firmly in control, the caretaker government has begun taking steps toward a more inclusive political world, appointing an opposition member for the first time to a ministry post: Mounir Abdel Nour, the secretary-general of the Wafd Party, one of Egypt's oldest political parties, was named the tourism minister for the interim government Sunday.

New Jersey's ailing economy may test governor's charismatic allure

By Richard Perez-Pena
and David M. Halbfinger
THE NEW YORK TIMES

In a year as governor of New Jersey, Chris Christie has captivated conservatives with an in-your-face frankness and nonstop aggressiveness that few have seen from a chief executive.

Last week, his swaggering talk — about tackling the really big problems, taming unions and cutting a ballooning deficit without raising taxes — earned him a hero's welcome in Washington.

But while it is clear that Christie, 48, a Republican, has upended the status quo, putting powerful interest groups on the defensive and all but having his way with a Democratic-controlled Legislature, the challenges of the coming year could cinch his reputation as a political superstar — or puncture it.

Without question, Christie, who will propose his budget Tuesday,

has torn into the financial problems he faced with gusto. He has cut spending, limited taxes, forced government workers to give more and get less, and insisted on legislative reforms that could put the state on a firmer footing.

"People have heard the tough talk, but they haven't felt the full effect of what he's done," said Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute.

From the moment he took over, Christie has flexed more of the muscle of New Jersey's famously strong governorship than any recent occupant. When the teachers' union resisted his demands for a wage freeze, he persuaded voters to defeat hundreds of school budgets. And he got nearly everything he wanted in last year's budget negotiations, making the deepest cuts in generations.

Christie's record has not been unblemished. He botched an application for \$400 million in federal education money at a time when he

was cutting twice that amount.

And in December, Christie was at Disney World during a blizzard that paralyzed the state. He refused to apologize, saying he had kept in touch with the acting governor, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, but Sweeney said they never spoke.

Where his poll numbers head now may depend on whether Christie can begin to show success in solving seemingly intractable problems before voters start to hold him responsible.

"When you cut billions of dollars from local government, you can't turn around and say, 'It's the mayor's fault' — you're the one who did it," Sweeney said. "In Chris Christie's New Jersey, class sizes are going up, and crime is going through the roof in our inner cities. Eventually, people are going to realize, 'I'm paying a lot more now, and I have a lot less. The people have not realized it yet. But he's the governor, and the music's going to stop.'

Blockbuster receives \$290 million hedge fund takeover bid

Blockbuster, the bankrupt video rental company, said on Monday that it had agreed to sell itself to a group of creditors for about \$290 million as a way to jump-start an auction process that could yield a higher bid.

The offer by the hedge funds — a group composed of Monarch Alternative Capital, Owl Creek Asset Management, Stonehill Capital Management and Værde Partners — is what is known in bankruptcy proceedings as a stalking horse bid, which sets a base price that other potential suitors must trump.

Together, the creditor group, called Cobalt Video, owns more than 50 percent of Blockbuster's senior secured notes, and each member is part of the company's creditor steering committee.

One question is what the billionaire investor Carl C. Icahn, another major creditor, plans to do.

As part of the purchase agreement with Cobalt, Blockbuster must begin closing down 609 stores, according to a court filing. Cobalt has also reserved the right under certain circumstances to convert Blockbuster's bankruptcy case into a Chapter 7 liquidation.

By seeking a sale, Blockbuster is hoping to hasten its exit from bankruptcy protection. The company filed for Chapter 11 in September, burdened by a hefty debt load and pressured from online rivals like Netflix and Redbox.

—Michael J. De La Merced, *The New York Times*

For South Korea, blazing internet speed isn't fast enough

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea already claims the world's fastest Internet connections — the fastest globally by far — but that is hardly good enough for the government here.

By the end of 2012, South Korea intends to connect every home in the country to the Internet at 1 gigabit per second. That would be a 10-fold increase from the already blazing national standard and more than 200 times as fast as the average household setup in the US.

A pilot gigabit project initiated by the government is under way, with 5,000 households in five South Korean cities wired. Each customer pays about 30,000 won a month, or less than \$27.

"South Korean homes now have greater Internet access than we do," President Barack Obama said in his State of the Union address last month. Last week, Obama unveiled an \$18.7 billion broadband spending program.

While Americans are clip-clopping along, trailing the Latvians and the Romanians in terms of Internet speed, the South Koreans are at a full gallop. Their average Internet connections are far faster than even No. 2 Hong Kong and No. 3 Japan, according to the Internet analyst Akamai Technologies.

—Mark McDonald, *The New York Times*

Bald mice given an anti-stress treatment find their fur

Mouse researchers conducting stress hormone experiments have stumbled onto a surprising new discovery — a potential treatment for hair loss.

Scientists at the University of California, Los Angeles, and the Veterans Administration were working with genetically altered mice that typically develop head-to-tail baldness as a result of overproducing a stress hormone.

The experiment wasn't focused on hair loss. Instead, it was designed to study a chemical compound that blocks the effects of stress on the gut. The researchers treated the bald mice for five days with the compound and then returned them to the cages, where they scampered about with several furry mice from a control group.

Three months later, the scientists went back to the cage to conduct additional experiments. They were surprised by what they saw inside — all of the mice had full heads and backs of hair. The once-bald mice, eventually identified through ear tags, were indistinguishable from their normal, furry cage mates.

Dr. Million Mulugeta, co-director of the preclinical stress biology program at UCLA, said he looked inside the cage and at first wondered why the bald mice weren't there. "I asked my colleague, 'How come these mice aren't distinguishable from the others?'" he said. "We went back to our data log, and we realized all the mice had grown hair. It was a totally unexpected finding."

The serendipitous discovery was reported Wednesday in the online medical journal PLoS One.

—Tara Parker-Pope, *The New York Times*

British spirits maker Diageo agrees to buy Turkish company

Diageo, the British spirits maker, agreed Monday to buy Mey Icki, a Turkish liquor company, for \$2.1 billion, in a deal that will expand Diageo's global reach.

The move is the first multibillion-dollar deal by Diageo in more than a decade and its latest step to push into developing markets in search of new areas for growth.

"Turkey is an attractive, growing market for Diageo," Paul Walsh, Diageo's chief executive, said in a statement. The acquisition will give Diageo "an outstanding platform from which to accelerate the long-term growth of our premium international spirits brands in Turkey," he said.

Diageo, based in London, said the acquisition would increase its earnings per share by about 1 percent in the first year. The company plans to finance the takeover through cash and debt.

Mey Icki, which was acquired by TPG Capital in 2006 for about \$800 million, had begun talks with Diageo in December, according to a person briefed on the matter. But it has also pursued a potential initial public offering, hiring four banks — JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs, Credit Suisse and Bank of America Merrill Lynch — to advise on any stock sale. The company is the biggest producer of raki, a popular alcoholic beverage consumed in Turkey. It has access to roughly 50,000 retail outlets across Turkey.

—Michael J. De La Merced, *The New York Times*

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Discussion on hazing misses the point

It disturbs me that most in the MIT community have missed the point when it comes to hazing.

Much of the current discussion has been frustrating to follow in large part due to the fact that much of the focus has been on irrelevant arguments, and the true problem goes unaddressed.

The current discussion boils down to the following structure:

A) Massachusetts law defines "hazing" as applying to a set of actions (call this set S) that follow a set of criteria C that are all necessary and sufficient to call the action hazing.

B) In deciding whether or not the actions performed by a group can be labeled as "hazing" and thus punishable, we must analyze whether or not the set S' performed by [insert group here] follow the criteria C.

For example, the action set S' can't be hazing actions because they weren't causing harm, or the participation was voluntary, or the definition of hazing is flawed and thus the criteria set C needs to be altered, etc.

But I call shenanigans on this mode of thought, for it sidesteps the root problems.

First, the MIT community, as well as the Greek sub-community, has its own set of standards that should be considered *higher* than that set down in Massachusetts law. As a member of the Greek community when I was an undergraduate, I find it odd and disappointing that any group would base its ethical standards simply on what is in the law books. This has always been the case when it comes to academic honesty policies, and social policies should be no different.

Second, one cannot define something into and out of existence; it makes no sense to say that under one definition hazing occurred but under another definition hazing did not. The term "hazing" is just an arbitrary signifier on some set of actions, of which finding the "true" definition is a fruitless task.

What the community needs is a discussion on the real question: whether or not

some set of actions S (i.e. those we *know* PBE performed) should be allowable and tolerable in 1) the MIT community and/or 2) the Greek community, both of which should strive to maintain strong ethical standards (especially the Greek community, which *markets* itself as such). The IFC seemed to have this concept in mind in their judgment, but this topic should be in the minds of all students and not just limited to the FSILG sub-communities.

In this manner, we displace the question that focuses on how hazing should be defined, and center on an issue of how to deal with heinous acts that violate the principles of a community of great minds and scholars.

Tony Rindone '10

Et Animus: Beyond Mind and Hand

It is fitting that an MIT education is so aptly described by our motto — *mens et manus* — mind and hand. Over the course of four years, we students are minds to be shaped and hands to be trained, and for what? We are an army of thousands assembled here for the advancement and development of science and technology.

As we approach the festivities surrounding MIT's 150th year, we are continually reminded of the great accomplishments our predecessors have achieved through dedication to this task. The statues have been raised and the hymns composed, and now we are ready to praise the wonders of mind and hand. Yet, the nature of our self-congratulations and back-patting reveals the extent to which the identity of MIT is intimately invested in unbridled enthusiasm for science and technology. Only this positivism of "inventional wisdom" can justify our achievements and inspire our continued devotion.

But what have we really accomplished? In the name of science, our explorations have taken mankind to the edges of the solar system and the depths of the sea, and still we have not learned to live together in peace. It seems that we are capable of transforming the world, yet we lie helpless when confronted with the depths of the human heart. We have made humanity more comfortable, more healthy, and

more efficient. Have we made humanity better?

Unfortunately, we cannot even claim that our little technocracy is a futuristic utopia, for nowhere are the limits of our positivism more apparent than here at MIT. Within these walls, we have built a mecca of technological innovation, and we call it Hell — not because of shortcomings in mind or hand, but rather because of the emptiness in our hearts. It is tragic that the mark of an MIT education is bitterness instead of joy.

It seems that we have lost something of ourselves in the cult of the firehose, in the single-minded and self-destructive pursuit of technical excellence. Though we may try to hide behind fanciful explanations of our love-hate relationship with the Institute, the suffering is real. It is a pain that neither mind nor hand can soothe.

How, then, are we to heal ourselves, and further, to heal mankind? Such a task is simply inconceivable, much less solvable, in the context of everything MIT stands for. And so we must grow even beyond mind and hand — beyond the constraints of positivism and of the mechanistic view which fails so terribly and tragically when applied to the human person. Though the fruits of our labors may well be gifts of love, neither a grand unified theory, nor fusion, nor strong AI, nor any of the grails of modern science and engineering can help us learn to love each other in truth and in deed.

If we truly desire to leave the world a better place, the key lies within our own heart. We must approach our fellow man with gentleness, respect, and mercy. We must chasten our hearts, humbling ourselves in service, sacrifice, and forgiveness. We must unlearn the bitter lessons of experience, that once again we might see the world through the eyes of a child.

The task before us is difficult, but how can we expect mankind to better itself if we ourselves refuse? Too long have we permitted ourselves to be consumed, as chaff, in the fire of our suffering, when instead we should glow, as gold. It is in fellowship and in service to each other that our grief can turn to joy and peace.

Engineers, let us build our world anew! Let us transform this wasteland of blood and concrete into a wellspring of life.

Anthony Valderrama '11

Digital freedom, liberty, civility, love
Internet freedom is a more complex problem than meets the eye

By **Florence Gallez**

STAFF COLUMNIST

While it is certainly encouraging to see that the current U.S. government is intent on bringing more freedom of expression and opportunities for democratic action to people in repressed regimes around the world, the latest effort at new legislation for improving Internet access to such regions may understandably leave us perplexed.

According to a Feb. 15 *New York Times* report entitled "U.S. Policy to Address Internet Freedom," the Obama administration wants to "help people get around barriers in cyberspace while making it harder for autocratic governments to use the same technology to repress dissent." These goals were reiterated by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton in her

speech on global Internet freedom as a fundamental right, echoing a sentiment she expressed in an address a year ago.

In her Feb. 15 speech, Clinton expanded on the new policy, denouncing the repressive cyberspace practices of countries such as China and Syria, and spelled out the U.S. government's credo when it comes to online values. She listed three "universal principles, or challenges for the Internet." These were "liberty and security, transparency and confidentiality, and free expression while fostering tolerance and civility."

No doubt noble goals. Who would argue against defending freedoms and rescuing the distressed and repressed? These commitments are all the weightier in the wake of the WikiLeaks developments their recently revealed implications for the U.S. government.

However, while rights activists, freedom fighters, and democracy supporters certainly nod in agreement with Clinton's proclaimed principles, it is tempting to assume that many eyes and minds on Tuesday were squarely focused on the real crux of the speech: the figures.

Clinton said that "the United States has awarded more than \$20 million in competitive grants to technologists and activists finding ways to fight against 'Internet repression,' and will award \$25 million more this year." There must have been a collective sigh of relief amongst these attentive ears on Tuesday, as the government had been dragging its feet to elaborate on the new policy and release \$30 million in Congressional financing earmarked for such free cyberspace protection activities.

Internet freedom, Page 5

OPINION POLICY

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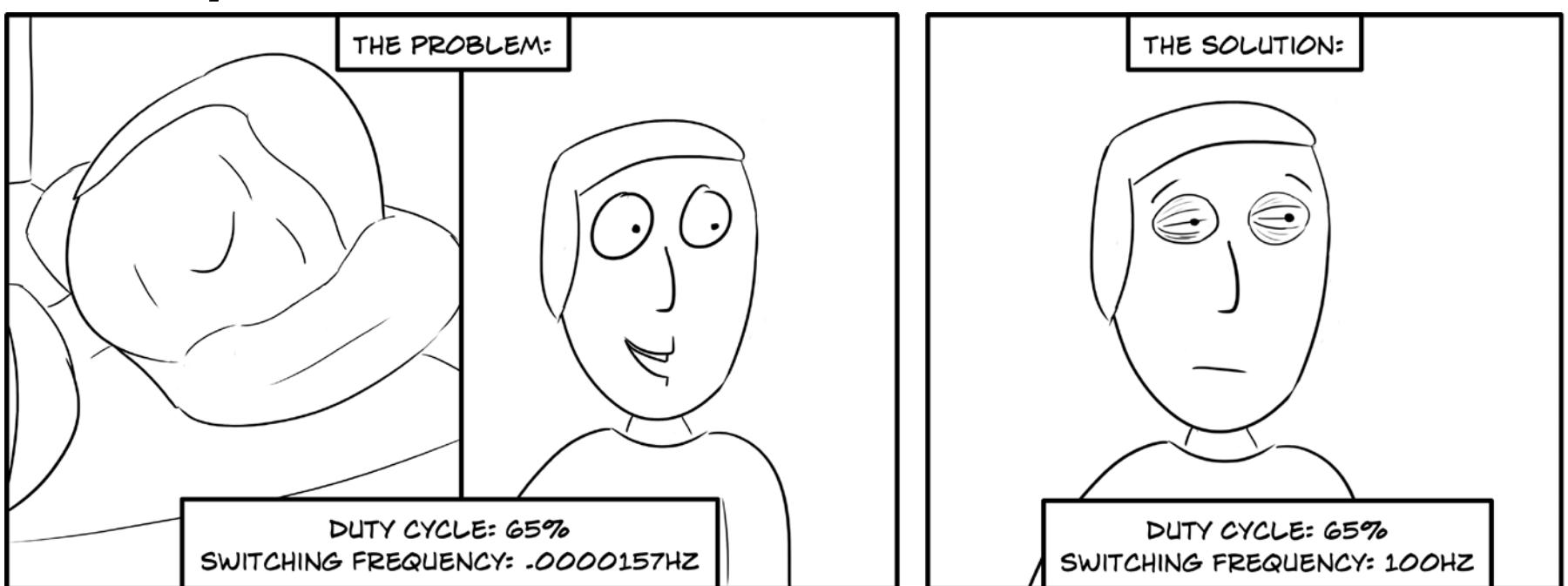
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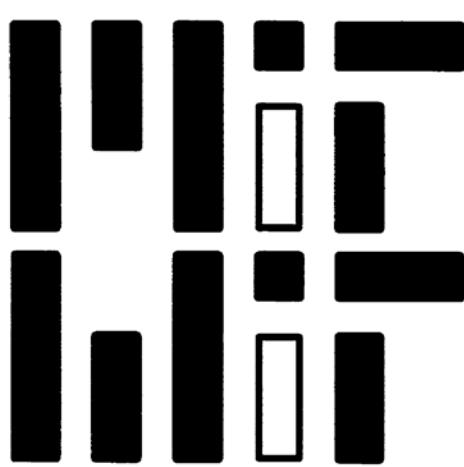
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Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



STEALMYCOMIC.COM



by Emily Ruppel



Crossword Puzzle

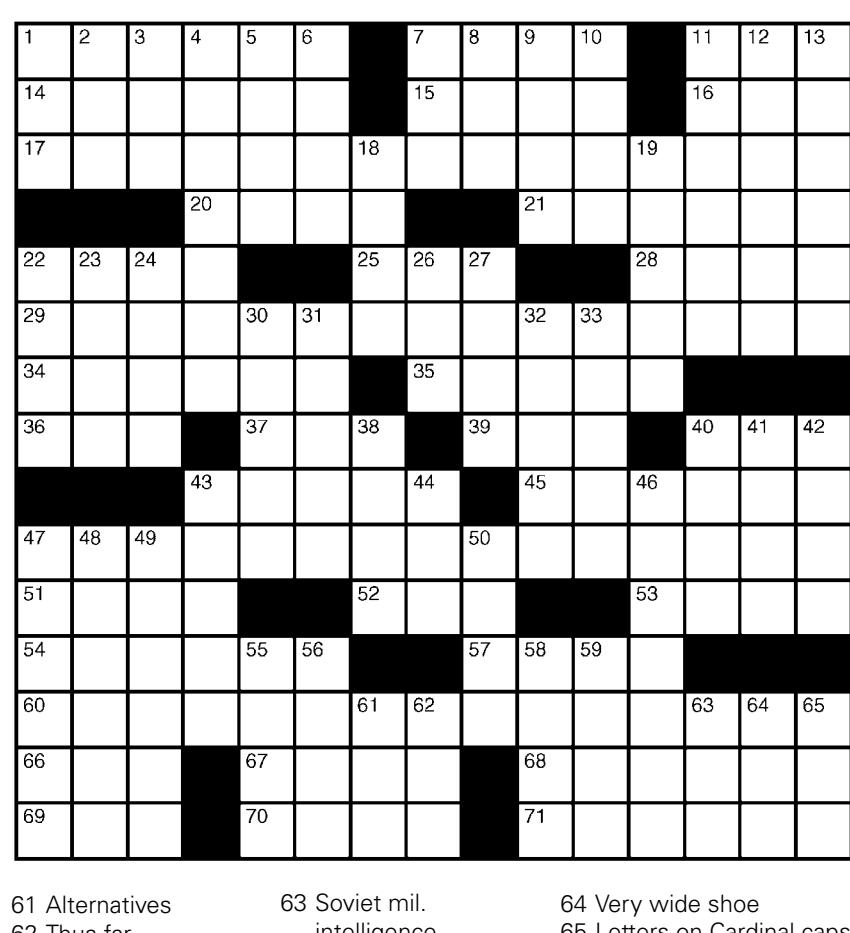
Solution, page 11

ACROSS

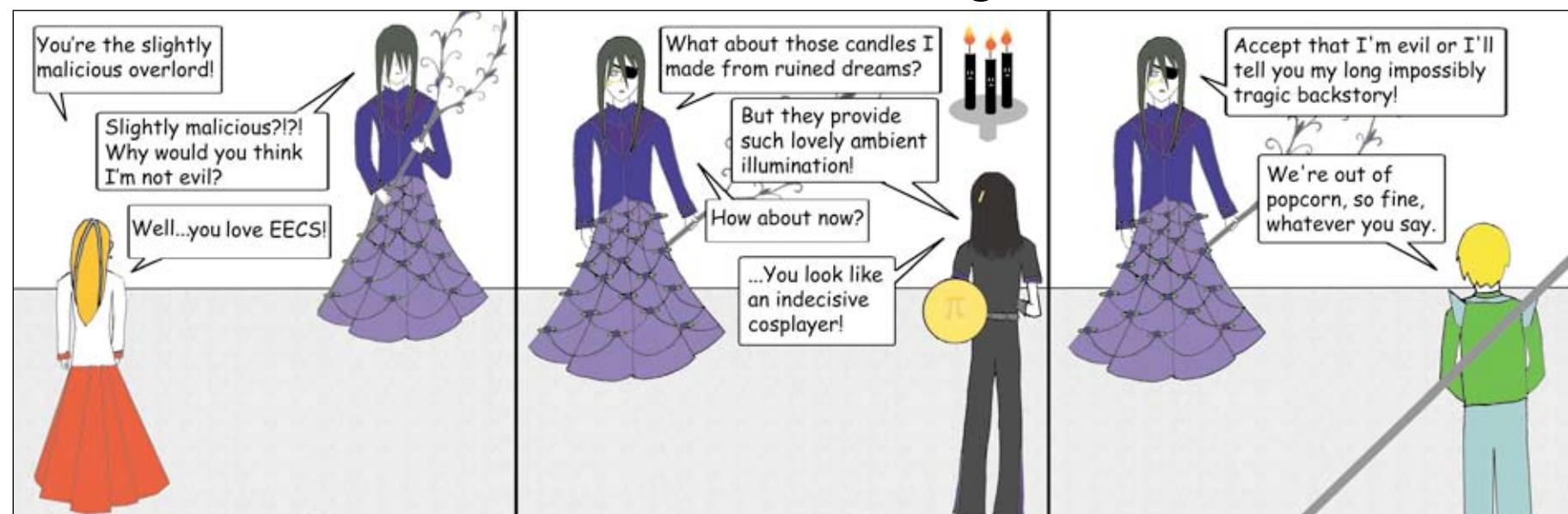
- 1 Strasbourg's region
- 7 City in Transylvania
- 11 Govt. med. grp.
- 14 Supplies with new weapons
- 15 Fixed charge
- 16 Greek Aurora
- 17 Ancient
- 20 Actor Estrada
- 21 Dairy Queen offering
- 22 Anna of "Nana"
- 25 Chapel Hill inst.
- 28 Hubbubs
- 29 Candy bar, formally
- 34 Defoe character
- 35 Some signals
- 36 Rene's friend
- 37 Star Wars letters
- 39 Old Turkish title
- 40 Size above med.
- 43 Saxophonist Mulligan
- 45 Military forces
- 47 Pennsylvania destination
- 51 Get wind of
- 52 Dog days mo.
- 53 Ta-ta, Luigi!

DOWN

- 1 Parseghian of football
- 2 "___ Girls"
- 3 Paulo, Brazil
- 4 Dahl and Francis
- 5 USN rank
- 6 Actor Morales
- 7 Component of some TVs
- 8 ___-di-dah
- 9 Shoshones
- 10 King of Israel (842-815 B.C.)
- 11 Kept back
- 12 Dancer Petit
- 13 Evaluate
- 18 Predatory shorebird
- 19 Kashmir river
- 22 Pet protection grp.
- 23 Period in office
- 24 Sewing case
- 26 Crux
- 27 Book of "The Alexandria Quartet"
- 30 Al of the '50s Indians
- 31 Pitcher Martinez
- 32 Actress Follows
- 33 Pictures of illusion
- 38 "___ la Douce"
- 40 20% of CCLXV
- 41 Ms. Rowlands
- 42 Exxon, once
- 43 Hooked by a horn
- 44 Mirror image?
- 46 Layered pavement
- 47 Oracle of Delphi region
- 48 Wife of Paris
- 49 Core groups
- 50 Cries of disgust
- 55 Crescent end
- 56 ___ Kringle
- 58 "Topaz" author
- 59 Peru's capital

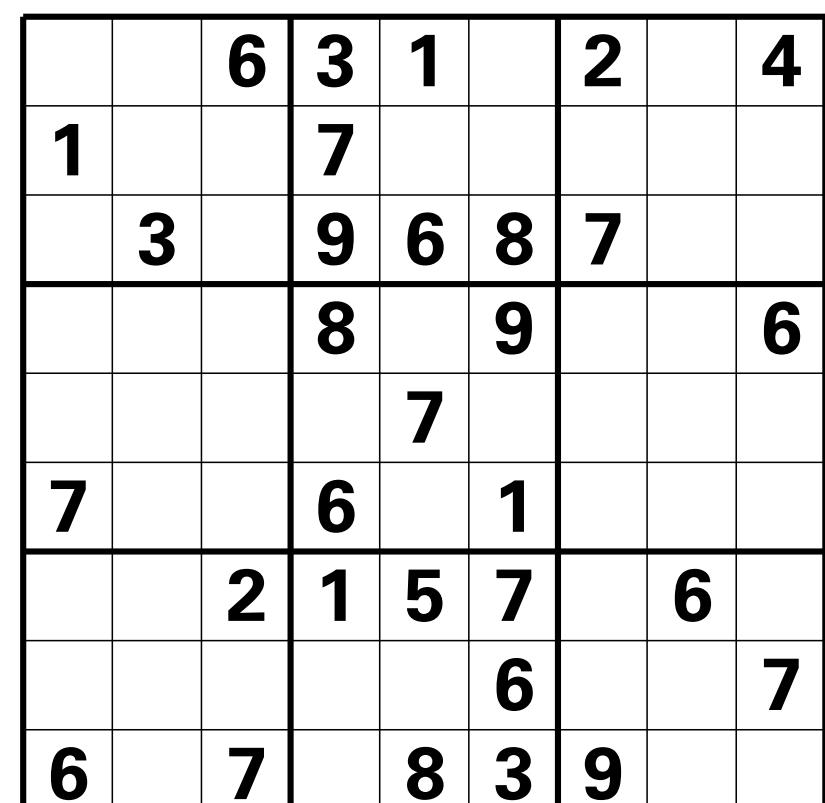


Somewhere on the Search for Meaning... by Letitia Li



Sudoku

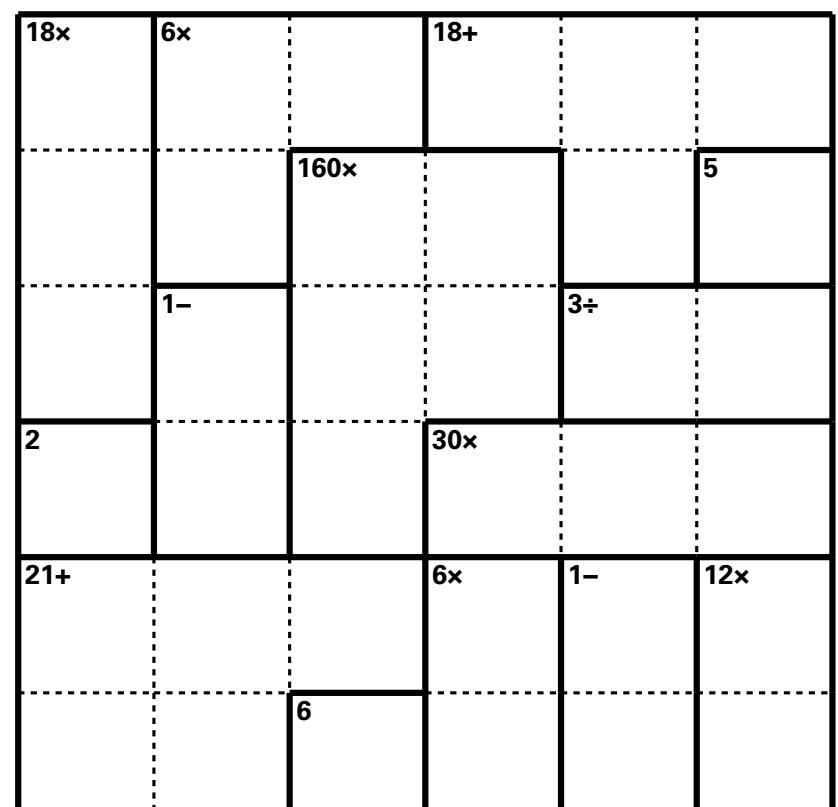
Solution, page 11



Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Techdoku

Solution, page 11



Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

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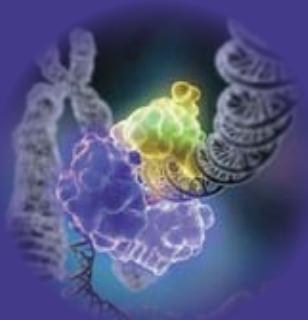
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File Edit Options Buffers Tools Im-Python Python Help
from new_skills import *
def learnMarketableJobSkills():
    return linux, OSX, javascript, applescript, perl, python, PHP
if self.interest == True:
    print "E-mail join@tech.mit.edu"
----:----E1 joinTechno.py (Python)--l1--Top----
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Learning to Change the World

Koch brothers' money fuels Wisconsin union fight

By Eric Lipton
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Among the thousands of demonstrators who jammed the Wisconsin State Capitol grounds this weekend was a well-financed advocate from Washington who was there to voice praise for cutting state spending by slashing union benefits and bargaining rights.

The visitor, Tim Phillips, the president of Americans for Prosperity, told counterprotesters in what was otherwise a largely union crowd that the cuts were not only necessary but also represented the start of a much-needed nationwide move to slash public-sector union benefits.

"We are going to bring fiscal sanity back to this great nation," he said.

What Phillips did not mention was that his Virginia-based nonprofit group, whose budget surged to \$40 million in 2010 from \$7 million three years ago, was created and financed in part by the secretive billionaire brothers Charles G. Koch '57 and David H. Koch '62.

State records also show that Koch Industries, their energy and consumer products conglomerate based in Wichita, Kan., was one of the biggest contributors to the election campaign of Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, a Republican who has championed the proposed cuts.

Even before the new governor was sworn in last month, executives from the Koch-backed group had worked behind the scenes to try to encourage a union showdown, Phillips said in an interview Monday.

State governments have gone into the red, he said, in part because of the excessively generous pay and benefits that unions have been able to negotiate for teachers, police, firefighters, and other state and local employees.

"We thought it was important to do," Phillips said, adding that his group is already working with ac-

tivists and state officials in Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania to urge them to take similar steps to curtail union benefits or give public employees the power to opt out of unions entirely.

To union leaders and liberal activists in Washington, this intervention in Wisconsin is proof of the expanding role played by nonprofit groups with murky ties to wealthy corporate executives as they push a decidedly conservative agenda.

"The Koch brothers are the poster children of the effort by multinational corporate America to try to redefine the rights and values of American citizens," said Rep. Gwen Moore, D-Wis., who joined with others in the union protests.

A spokesman for Koch Industries, as well as Phillips, scoffed at that accusation. The companies owned by Koch (pronounced Coke) — which include the Georgia-Pacific Corp. and Koch Pipeline Co. — have no direct stake in the union debate, they said. The company has about 3,000 employees in Wisconsin, including workers at a toilet paper factory and gasoline supply terminals. The pending legislation would not directly affect its bottom line.

A balanced budget will benefit Koch Industries and its thousands of employees in Wisconsin no more and no less than the rest of the state's private-sector workers and employ-

ers," said Jeff Schoepke, a Koch Industries lobbyist in Wisconsin. "This is a dispute between public-sector unions and democratically elected officials over how best to serve the public interest."

Certainly, the Koch brothers have long used their wallets to promote fiscal conservatism and combat regulation, another Koch Industries spokesman said Monday.

But the push to curtail union benefits in Wisconsin has been backed by many conservative groups that have no Koch connection, Phillips noted.

"This is a Wisconsin movement," said Fred Luber, chief executive of the Supersteel Products Corp. in Milwaukee, who serves on Americans for Prosperity's Wisconsin state advisory board. "Obviously, Washington is interested in this. But it is up to us to do."

Political activism is high on the list of priorities for Charles Koch, who in a letter in September to other business leaders and conservatives explained that he saw no other choice.

"If not us, who? If not now, when?" said the letter, which invited other conservatives to a retreat in January in Rancho Mirage, Calif. "It is up to us to combat what is now the greatest assault on American freedom and prosperity in our lifetimes."

Campaign finance records in

Washington show that donations by Koch Industries and its employees climbed to a total of \$2 million in the last election cycle, twice as much as a decade ago, with 92 percent of that money going to Republicans. Donations in state government races — like in Wisconsin — have also surged in recent years, records show.

But the most aggressive expansion of the Koch brothers' effort to influence public policy has come through the Americans for Prosperity, which runs both a charitable foundation and a grassroots-activists group. Phillips serves as president of both branches, and David Koch is chairman of the Americans for Prosperity Foundation.

The grassroots-activists wing of the organization has chapters in 32 states, including Wisconsin, and an e-mail list of 1.6 million supporters, said Mary Ellen Burke, a spokeswoman. She would not say how much of last year's \$40 million budget came from the Koch family, but nationwide donations have come in from 70,000 members, she said, offering it as proof that it has wide support.

The organization has taken up a range of topics, including combating the health care law, environmental regulations and spending by state and federal governments. The effort to impose limits on public labor unions has been a particular focus

in Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, all states with Republican governors, Phillips said, adding that he expects new proposals to emerge soon in some of those states to limit union power.

To Bob Edgar, a former House Democrat who is now president of Common Cause, a liberal group that has been critical of what it sees as the rising influence of corporate interests in U.S. politics, the Koch brothers are using their money to create a facade of grassroots support for their favorite causes.

"This is a dangerous moment in America history," Edgar said. "It is not that these folks don't have a right to participate in politics. But they are moving democracy into the control of more wealthy corporate hands."

But Phillips and members of his group and other conservative activists, not surprisingly, see it very differently. Just like unions organize to fight for their priorities, conservatives are entitled to a voice of their own.

"This is a watershed moment in Wisconsin," Phillips said. "For the last two decades, government unions have used their power to drive pensions and benefits and salaries well beyond anything that can be sustained. We are just trying to change that."

Steven Greenhouse contributed reporting from Madison, Wis.

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Solution to Crossword

from page 6

A	L	S	A	C	C	L	U	J	H	R	A
R	E	A	R	M	S	R	A	T	E	O	S
A	S	O	L	D	A	S	T	H	E	I	L
E	R	I	K		S	U	N	D	A	E	
S	T	E	N		U	N	C	D	I	N	S
P	E	T	E	R	P	A	U	M	O	U	N
C	R	U	S	O	E	B	E	E	P	S	
A	M	I	S	D	I	A	G	A	L	G	E
G	E	R	R	Y		A	R	M	I	E	S
P	O	C	N	O	M	U	N	T	A	I	N
H	E	A	R		A	U	G	C	I	A	O
O	N	D	E	C	K		H	U	L	A	
C	O	R	D	U	R	O	Y	S	R	I	D
I	N	E	S	I	R	E	I	M	A	R	E
S	E	S	P	S	S	T	S	A	M	U	E

Solution to Sudoku

from page 7

8	7	6	3	1	5	2	9	4
1	9	5	7	2	4	6	3	8
2	3	4	9	6	8	7	1	5
5	2	1	8	4	9	3	7	6
3	6	8	5	7	2	1	4	9
7	4	9	6	3	1	5	8	2
9	8	2	1	5	7	4	6	3
4	1	3	2	9	6	8	5	7
6	5	7	4	8	3	9	2	1

Solution to Techdoku

from page 7

1	2	3	5	4	6
6	1	2	4	3	5
3	4	5	1	6	2
2	3	4	6	5	1
5	6	1	3	2	4
4	5	6	2	1	3

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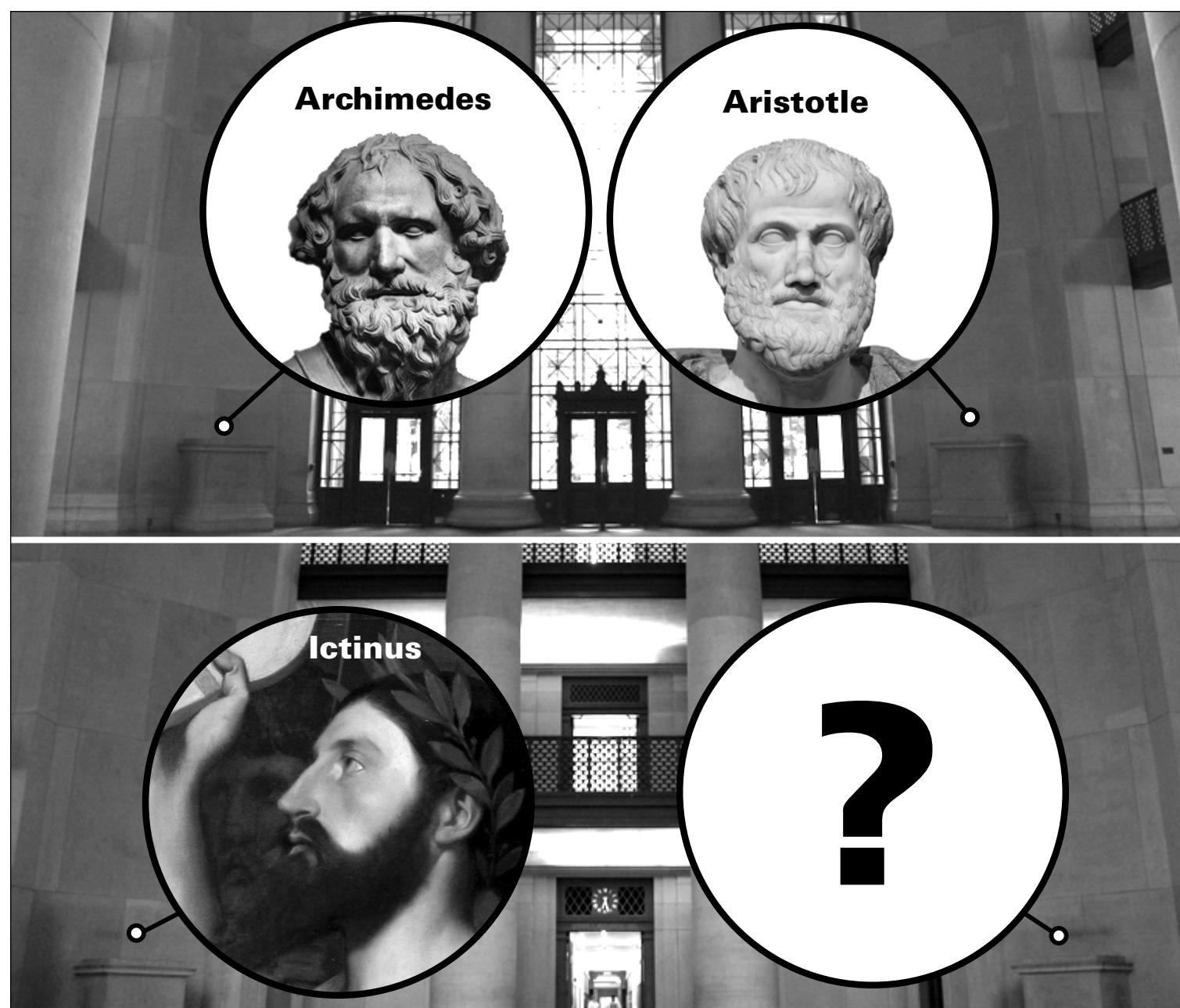
Lobby 7 competition focuses on 'mens et manus'

Lobby 7, Page 1

who said that two alumni, Harvey I. Steinberg '54 and Joseph P. Blake '54, approached him with the idea for the competition after reading his book *Designing MIT: Bosworth's New Tech*, which discusses the history of the plinths. With MIT's 150th anniversary coming up in April, the alumni felt that now was the perfect opportunity for students to represent the Institute in a manner outside of their specialized interests. "The purpose was to see what kinds of ideas today's students would have regarding what could or should be placed on the plinths," said Blake.

Open to all MIT students and sponsored by the Class of 1954, the design competition is less an exercise in functional design than one in conceptual design; there is no guarantee that one of the winning designs will be built, as that final decision is made by the President's office. The intent of the competition is not to produce a functional space-filler, but rather to elicit thought and innovation from students. Jarzombek said that not all of the finalist's entries could be functionally implemented, but they were selected since they represent the essence of MIT. The only "rule" of the competition is to submit a design in the spirit of MIT's official creed: mens et manus.

The winning entries will be displayed at the Elliot K. Wolk Gallery in Building 7 from April 15 to May 15 in an exhibition hosted by the MIT Museum. The final winners, in both the graduate and undergraduate groups, will be formally announced on April 15 at a ceremony that will be part of the MIT 150 celebration.



ARCHIMEDES PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM IN NAPLES, ICTINUS PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY IN LONDON

The Lobby 7 plinths were designed for statues of Greek intellectuals, but 12 finalists have designed their own, uniquely MIT adornments.



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Grand Junction changes on the horizon



JASWANTH MADHAVAN

The Grand Junction Railroad may become a commuter rail link between Boston's North Station and Worcester. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has purchased the rights to the rail line, which runs past Simmons Hall and over Massachusetts Avenue, and is investigating the possibility of upgrading the tracks for commuter rail use. If realized, a commuter rail line along Grand Junction could mean that as many as 25 trains per day will travel the tracks, a marked increase over the light freight use it experiences today. The Cambridge City Council has come out against commuter rail, citing a potential impact on already-congested Cambridge streets, noise pollution, and the lack of any apparent benefits of commuter rail for Cambridge communities. MassDOT says that linking Worcester and North Station will strengthen the regional economy. The tracks run directly under Building 46, MIT's Brain and Cognitive Sciences complex.

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Google trying to avoid antitrust fight in Europe

By James Kanter
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BRUSSELS — At the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the hottest ticket in recent years has invariably been an invitation to Google's lavish private party, and 2011 was no exception.

Eric E. Schmidt, soon to leave the post of chief executive, was avidly working the crowd amid free-flowing liquor and pulsating dance music.

But in recent months, Google has been attracting a different kind of attention. As its ambitions have grown, stretching into businesses far beyond Internet search and advertising by the click, so has the scrutiny of antitrust agencies on both sides of the Atlantic.

So Google extended an even

more exclusive invitation to another Davos attendee, Joaquin Almunia, the EU antitrust chief, asking him to meet face-to-face with Schmidt.

On the agenda: the investigation Almunia's team had just begun into allegations from European companies that Google had abused its dominance in online search — by giving preferential placement to its own services and unfavorable treatment to those of competitors.

At the meeting, Schmidt asked Almunia to complete the inquiry as quickly as possible. And if the investigation turned up problems, Schmidt requested that Google be given a chance to offer solutions without incurring penalties, according to people with direct knowledge of their conversation.

Almunia told Schmidt he would try to do so, according to these peo-

ple, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of antitrust investigations.

The details of the investigation are not public, and Google has not disclosed its responses to the European Commission.

A Google spokesman, Al Verney, said recently that "there's always going to be room for improvement" and that Google would "continue to work closely with" European regulators to address any concerns.

But antitrust investigations in the United States are piling up, including a Texas inquiry involving Google's search dominance and federal scrutiny of Google's proposed acquisition of ITA Software, a flight information company. And with complaints growing louder on issues like privacy, the last thing Google wants is to get bogged down

in a lengthy antitrust battle in Brussels.

The case could also be costly for Google, and not just in tarnishing its "Don't be evil" motto. If found in violation of European law, Google could be fined as much as 10 percent of its annual worldwide revenue, which topped \$29 billion last year. It could also be required to adjust its business model as part of a remedy.

Google has some reason to be hopeful.

Almunia is portrayed by those who know him as more of a consensus-seeker than his immediate predecessors, who imposed huge fines on Microsoft and, in a separate case, the chip giant Intel, a ruling Intel is still appealing. And the commission was wary of rushing into another high-stakes battle with another U.S. corporate powerhouse.

But its members could not ignore the clamoring — from struggling startups, major newspaper publishers and telecommunications companies, among others — for them to look into Google's ever-expanding operations.

On Nov. 30, Almunia's office issued a news release saying it had opened a formal investigation of the company. Despite Google's market share in Internet searches of more than 90 percent in parts of Europe, the evidence in hand was limited. The commission's case team had formal complaints from only three companies, and each was a minnow in the technology world.

In addition, the commission's old antagonist, Microsoft, was among those pushing hardest for an investigation; two of the three complainants had ties — one directly, the other indirectly — to the company.

Yet during the course of 2010, the case team received signals

that if a formal investigation were started and official questionnaires sent industry-wide, they would get plenty more evidence.

During the preliminary inquiries, Google's own actions were perceived in Brussels as naive, according to one senior EU official with direct knowledge of the investigation. There were also apparent inconsistencies between Google's public and private statements regarding practices like "whitelisting," or adjusting the results of Google's algorithms to favor certain sites in search results.

Almunia is portrayed as more of a consensus-seeker than his predecessors.

That issue has relevance in the United States as well. In an antitrust investigation that strikes at the heart of Google's search business, investigators in Texas are seeking evidence about the "manual overriding or altering of" search result rankings. That inquiry involves at least one of the websites in the European investigation, a British price-comparison service called Foundem.

The specifics of antitrust cases are typically kept private by regulators and the companies being investigated, but, unusually, Google chose in February 2010 to publicize which companies had filed complaints. They were Foundem; Ciao, another price-comparison site in Germany; and Ejustice.fr, a French legal advice site.

Google highlighted the fact that Ciao was owned by Microsoft and

Google, Page 15

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Google, from Page 14

that Foundem had ties to a Microsoft-financed lobbying group in Brussels.

The company's decision, however, was seen as "defensive and naive," said one senior commission official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Officials also saw Google's early responses as inadequate in addressing their central concern: whether Google had shut out competition. The filings in the case, some of which were made available to *The New York Times*, showed that Google frequently dwelt on what it saw as its prerogative to preserve the quality of its own service for consumers.

"Suggesting that Google is under an obligation to show search results of other search services is like suggesting that Mercedes is under an obligation to put Fiat motors in its cars," the company's lawyers wrote to the commission in a confidential response on May 3.

That was in response to charges by Ejustice.fr that Google had removed most of its pages from an online index. As a result, Ejustice said, clicks on its site dropped so sharply that it was effectively invisible on the Web.

Google said in its response that Ejustice.fr was violating guidelines set by Google about how to make the website findable in Google's search engine. Google said that violation could result in users never finding a Web page with the answer to their question, just more pages of search results.

Google also said Ejustice.fr created pages with thousands of hyperlinks consisting only of search keywords, many with little or nothing to do with the law. "This is typical behavior of sites that seek artificially to increase their search result ranking without offering authentic content," Google lawyers wrote.

At the same time, Google acknowledged that it had probably also removed some potentially useful Ejustice legal search terms.

A complaint by Adam and Shivaun Raff, the husband-and-wife team behind Foundem, was pivotal.

Foundem was a highly regarded price-comparison site in Britain. But for some time, the Raffs said, their site had become virtually invisible on Google's search results, and in July 2009, the couple headed for Brussels to complain.

They contended that their site had been penalized by Google, starting in June 2006, even though its ranking remained competitive on other search engines like Bing and Yahoo.

They said that Google had then made it prohibitively expensive for them to make their site easier to find in a different way — through paid advertising that appears next to Google's search results. And they made a third charge: that Google's algorithms had the effect of favoring Google's own price-comparison tool, originally called Froogle and since renamed Google Product Search.

Eventually the Raffs submitted a formal complaint, backed by written material that seemed at odds with some of Google's public statements.

For example, Julia Holtz, Google's chief lawyer in Europe, told reporters in February 2010 that "we don't whitelist or blacklist" other websites.

Yet the company apparently has used whitelisting, at least in certain areas. One message to the Raffs from Google in September 2007, which focused on returning Foundem's paid advertising rates to normal, was labeled "Update on Whitelisting." Two weeks later, Google informed Foundem that it had successfully "facilitated a change" and remedied the problem.

But Foundem was still not satisfied with its search ranking, and the Raffs persisted.

By autumn 2009, Matt Cutts, the head of Google's webspam team, which works on search quality, had begun a detailed dialogue with Foundem. Cutts advised Shivaun Raff in an e-mail dated Nov. 20, 2009, to do more to clean up garble on the site, and then "we should see some positive changes to Foundem's relative ranking." Cutts insisted that there was "no manual penalty affecting the ranking of Foundem pages."

In its May 3 filing, Google said it had given Foundem "the benefit of the doubt and removed the demotion" after Foundem had fixed "the most egregious quality deficiencies."

Foundem has produced color diagrams it says proves that Google favors its own services.

Foundem, however, charges that Google's remedy took too long — three and a half years — and that the process was too difficult.

Foundem also charges that Google uses other algorithms to favor its own services, and it has produced color diagrams it says proves that point. Google did not respond to questions seeking specific comment on Foundem's allegations.

Google, however, is accustomed to dealing with complaints about search placement. Last November, Google wrote on its European Public Policy Blog that its goal was serving users with "the best, most relevant" information, adding that "not every Web site can come out on top, or even appear on the first page of our results, so there will almost always be Web site owners who are unhappy about their rankings."

A few days before the commission formally opened its case, Almunia telephoned David C. Drummond, Google's chief lawyer, to alert him of the investigation. Drummond expressed his disappointment, but there were no attempts at negotiating by either party, according to people with knowledge of their conversation.

Asked about the Davos meeting between Schmidt and Mr. Almunia, Verney, the Google spokesman, said, "We frequently talk to regulators as a normal part of any investigation process."

Amelia Torres, a spokeswoman for Almunia, said that the antitrust chief was "happy with Google's cooperation."

If the past is an indicator, the case will be alive for some time. The cases involving Microsoft and Intel lasted, through various stages, for about a decade.

Paul Geitner contributed reporting from Davos, Switzerland, and Claire Cain Miller contributed from San Francisco.

Swimming and Diving wins NEWMAC Championships



JESSICA L. WASS—THE TECH

This weekend, MIT Women's Swimming and Diving won the NEWMAC Championships for the first time in school history. After consistently taking second place, the Engineers beat rivals Springfield College 917.5 points to 894.5. The seniors of the team (from left to right), Diana E. LaScala-Gruenewald '11, Elizabeth L. Stavely '11 (partially obscured), Amy E. Jacobi '11, Kaitlyn M. Creasey '11, Caroline A. DeBoer '11, and Lauren R. Hernley '11, claim the first place trophy.

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Williams sneaks Track win

MIT women rival Williams for Indoor trophy

By Laura Stilwell
TEAM REPRESENTATIVE

MIT Women's Track and Field once again demonstrated their characteristic competitiveness and tenacity as they competed in the New England Division III Indoor Championships held here at MIT over the weekend. Although rival Williams College was favored to win the event, the Engineers refused to allow Williams to simply walk into their house and take the title without an impressive fight.

While there were over 20 teams racing on the Shobrys and Aronson Track this weekend, the competition quickly turned into a dual meet between MIT and Williams, and remained so until the very end. Going into the last two events — the 4x400-meter relay and the 4x800 relay — MIT trailed Williams by 9 points. With relentless determination, the women mixed up the relay entries in an effort to maximize their chances of scoring crucial points. Kirsten H. Aarsvold '11 and Megan E. Bumgarner '14 were called upon to race in the 4x400 relay, while Hazel L. Briner '11 and Jamie L. Simmons '12 were placed in the 4x800 relay. Along with Portia M. Jones '12 and Martha M. Gross '12, Aarsvold and Bumgarner helped the 4x400 relay team take second place, putting them within 6 points of Williams. The 4x800 relay, consisting of Briner, Simmons, Olivia J. Papa '14, and Louise E. van den Heuvel '14, ran an impressive time of 9 minutes, 33.42 seconds, scoring second place and beating the Williams squad. However, the Engineers' inspiring comeback effort fell just short. Williams was still able to claim the championship, scoring only four points more than MIT.

The women gave spectacular efforts throughout the entire competition, but "it required a near perfect meet to win and we just could not quite pull it off," Head Coach Halston W. Taylor commented. The women started off strong on Friday afternoon with the indoor pentathlon, as Jaclyn A. Konopka '14 went from unseeded in the competition to scoring an unexpected third for the Engineers. Tech began the competition on Saturday with an equally impressive effort, as the

distance medley relay team of Aarsvold, Papa, Andrea D. Nickerson '14, and Anna M. Holt-Gosselin '11 were able to take first. Holt-Gosselin also captured another win in the 3000, running an outstanding personal record of 10:08.37, while Martina A. de Geus '14 placed sixth in the event with a time of 10:15.29.

MIT also earned wins in the 4x200 relay, 200, and pole vault. The 4x200 relay team, consisting of Jacqueline A. Brew '14, Jones, Gross, and Simmons, moved up from their third seed to take the event. Jones added on to this first place finish a second place in the 400 and a win in the 200 with a time of 25.43, setting a new program record. With these marks, along with her contribution to the second place finish by the 4x400 relay squad, Jones proved once again why she deserves the title of All-American.

The women's pole vault remained consistent in their excellent performances this season by sweeping the event and accruing 24 points for MIT. Karin E. Fisher '11 took the event with a vault of 3.80 meters, extending her record to five out of six first place finishes for the year. Briner placed second, and Lauren B. Kuntz '13 placed third with a personal record of 3.65.

With these marks, Jones proved once again why she deserves the title of All-American.

Along with her outstanding contribution to the 4x200 relay win, Brew captured third place in the long jump, fifth in the 55 hurdles, and eighth in the triple jump. Amy R. Magnuson G earned third in the 55 hurdles, followed by Briner, as she once again demonstrated the depth of her talent, scoring over 20 points for the Engineers.

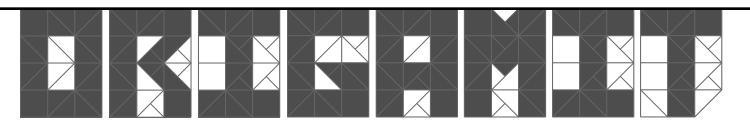
Coach Taylor was "very proud of everyone's effort," and is looking forward to the Outdoor Track and Field season, in which the women hope to defend their NEWMAC Outdoor Championship title. The Indoor season, however, is far from over. The women will continue with the NEICAAA Championship this upcoming weekend at Boston University.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

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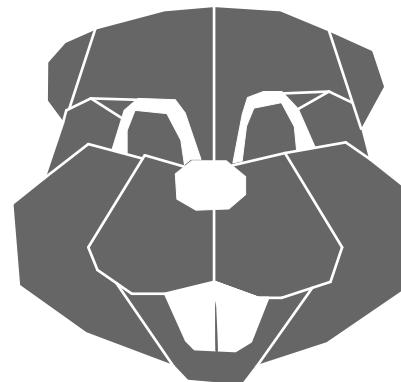
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